

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jennifer Stachniak on 12/19/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 7, line 16, --by interaction with an inward facing surface of the valve plate-- has been inserted between 'head' and 'during'.

In Claim 8, line 17, --by interaction with an inward facing surface of the valve plate-- has been inserted between 'head' and 'during'.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the primary reason for allowance was the inclusion of the functional recitation added by examiner's amendment above. U.S. Patent Nos. 2,981,446 to Campbell, 3,920,165 to Schultz and 4,420,099 to Pizzurro et al. show a portion of an overcap forming a spring that either does not interact with the valve plate or does not interact with an inward facing surface of the valve plate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL R. SHEARER whose telephone number is (571)270-7416. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571)272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. R. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3754

/KEVIN P. SHAVER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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